

# The TESS Mission:

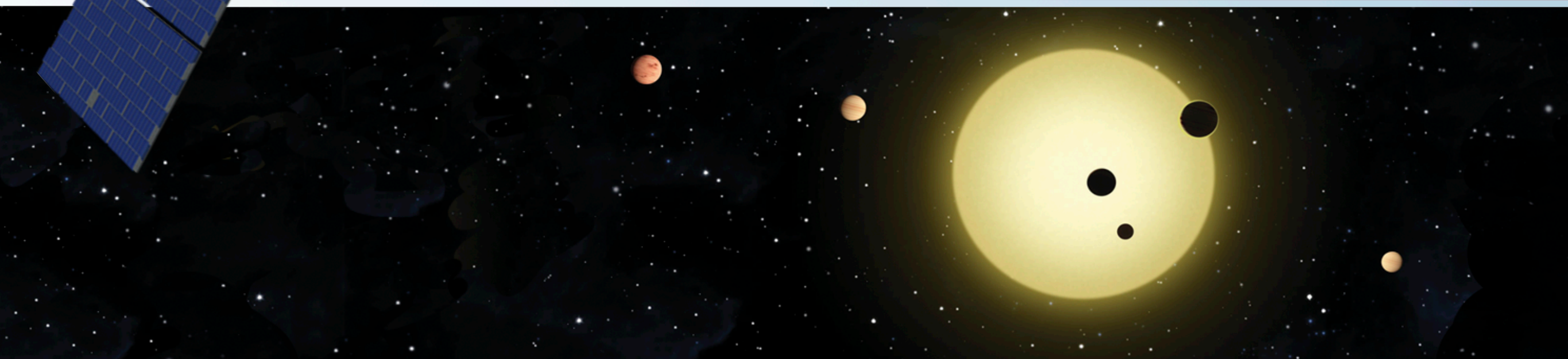
## Discovering New Earths and Super-Earths in the Solar Neighborhood

**George Ricker (MIT)**

**Exoplanet Exploration Program Analysis Group Meeting #9**

**AAS Washington DC**

**5 January 2014**



# TESS: The People's Telescope

...Data releases in 4 months

...2017 Launch!



## **MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MKI + LL)**

PI, Payload, Science Center

## **NASA'S GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER**

Mission Management, Engineering, Safety & Mission Assurance, E/PO

## **ORBITAL SCIENCES CORPORATION**

Spacecraft Bus, Observatory I&T, Mission Operations Center

### **NASA AMES**

Data Pipeline

### **SAO**

Follow-Up Program,  
Science Center

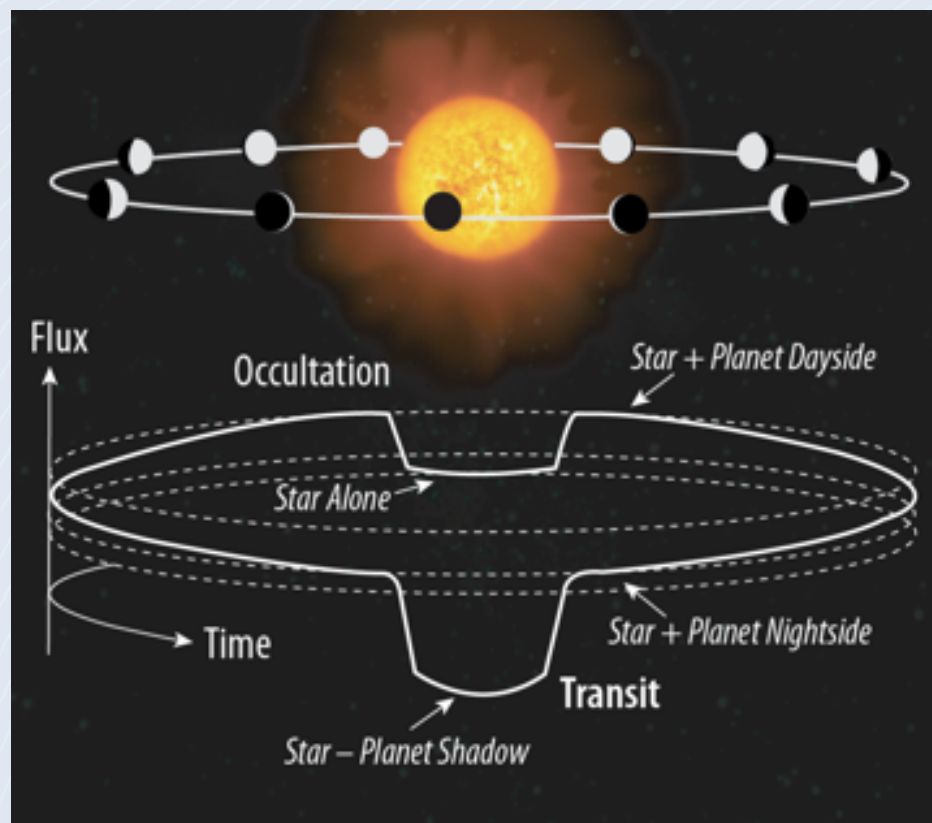
### **STScI**

Archive, E/PO

Contributors include: SAO, MPIA-Germany, Las Cumbres Observatory, Geneva Observatory, OHP-France, University of Florida, Aarhus University-Denmark, Harvard College Observatory, STScI, and Vanderbilt University. There are no mission hardware contributions.

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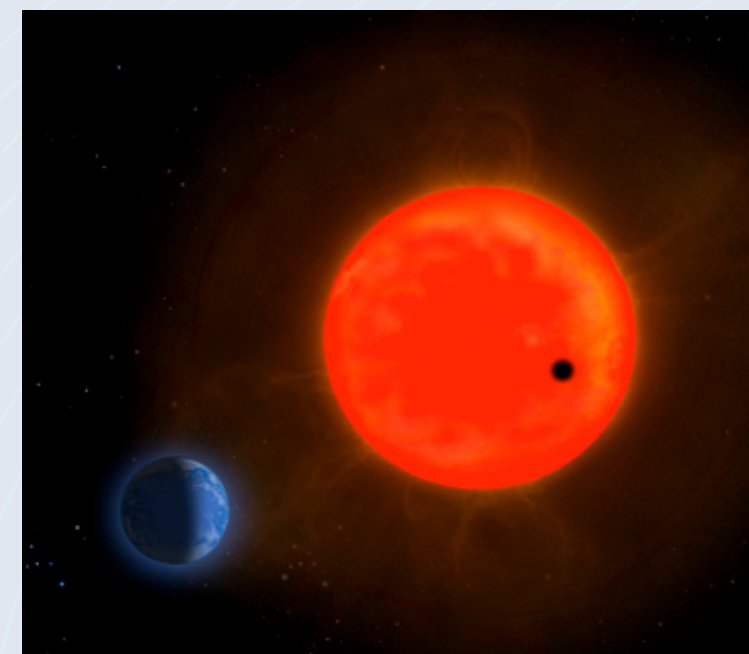




- ◆ Discover Transiting Earths and Super-Earths Orbiting Bright, Nearby Stars
  - *Rocky Planets & Water Worlds*
  - *Habitable Planets*
- ◆ Discover the “Best” ~1000 **Small** Exoplanets
  - “Best” Means “Readily Characterizable”
    - *Bright Host Stars*
    - *Measurable Mass & Atmospheric Properties*
  - Present: Only 2 small transiting exoplanets orbiting bright hosts are known

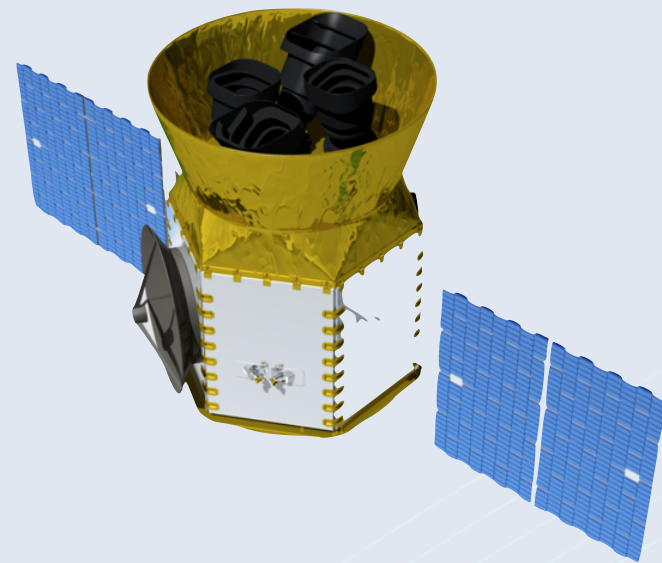
## ◆ All Sky Survey of Bright Stars

- *F, G, K dwarfs: +4 to +12 magnitude*
- *M dwarfs known within ~60 parsecs*
- *>500,000 target stars in two years*



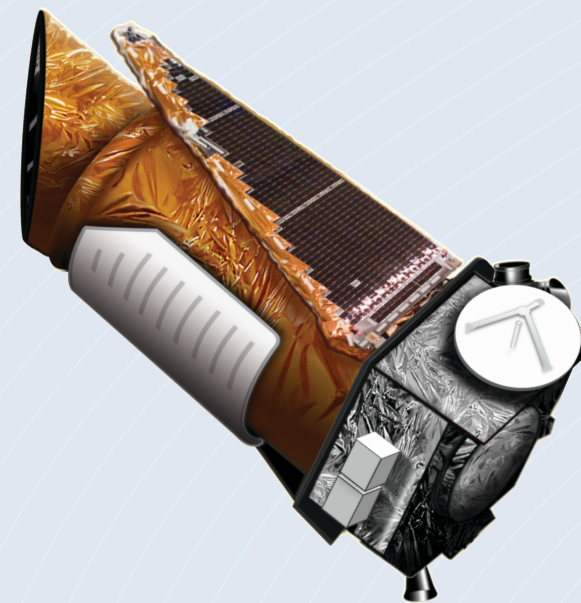
## ◆ TESS:

*Where are the nearest transiting rocky planets?*



## ◆ Kepler:

*How common are true Earth analogs?*





## ♦ Why?

- *Two reasons...both arise from TESS's focus on Solar Neighborhood*

## ♦ Solid angle coverage

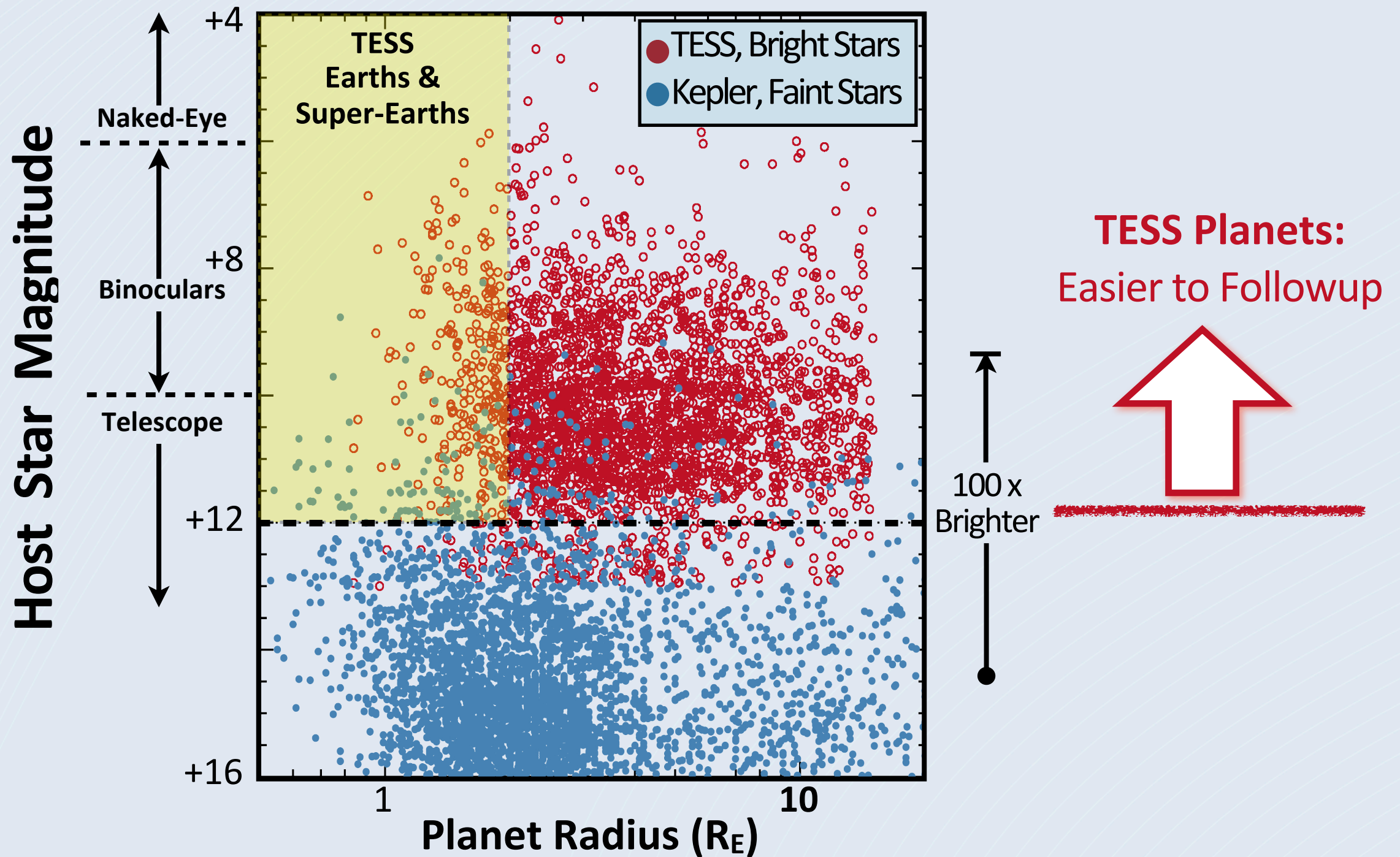
- $\Omega_{TESS} \approx 400 \Omega_{Kepler}$
- *Number of accessible bright stars increased by same factor*

## ♦ Catalog star distances

- *TESS:  $\sim 10^2$  light-yr*
- *Kepler:  $\sim 10^3$  light-yr*

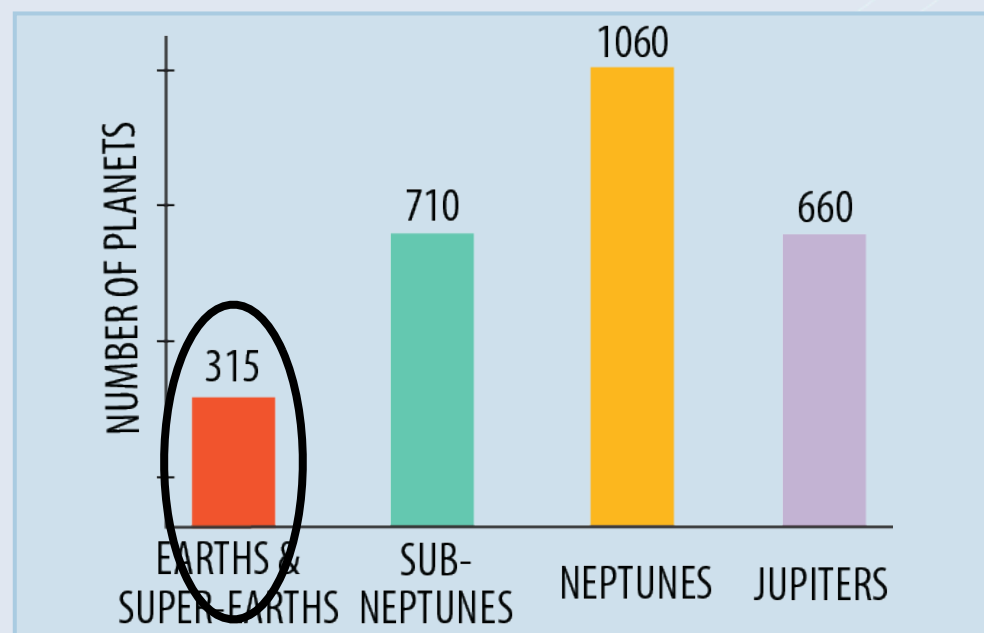
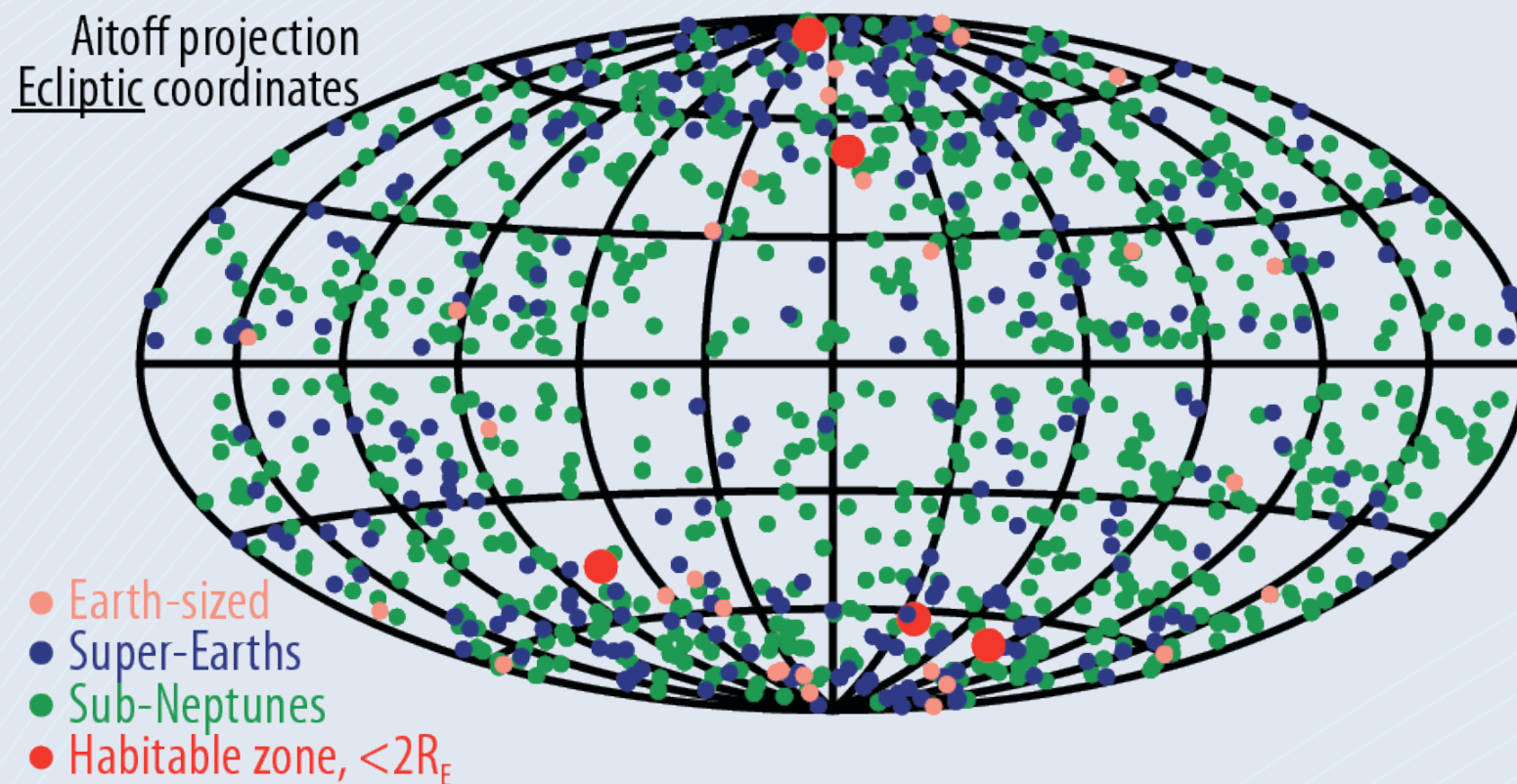


***$1/R^2$  dependence means TESS stars are  
 $\sim 100$  times brighter on average***



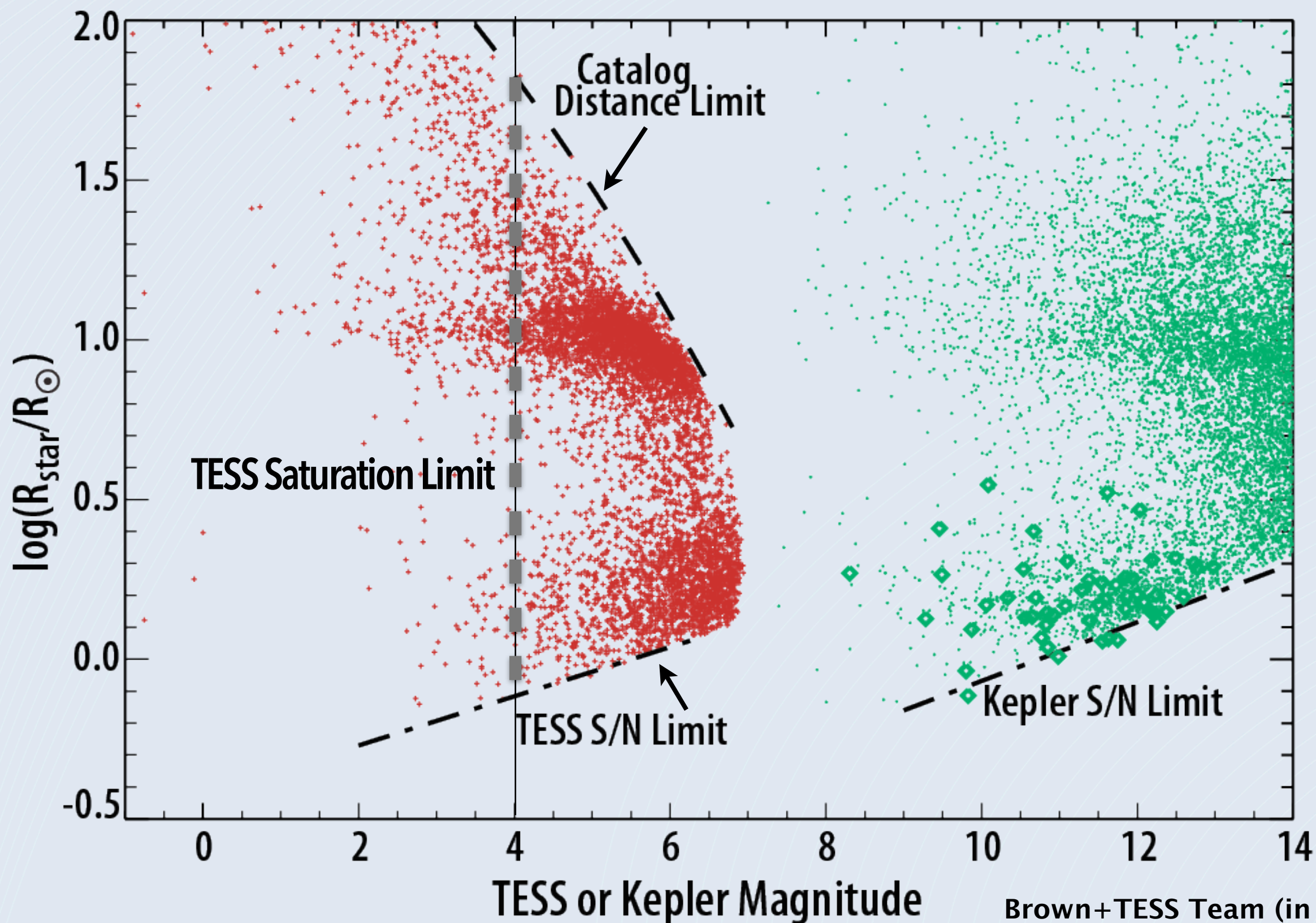
**TESS Will Discover Earths & Super-Earths  
Orbiting Bright Stars**



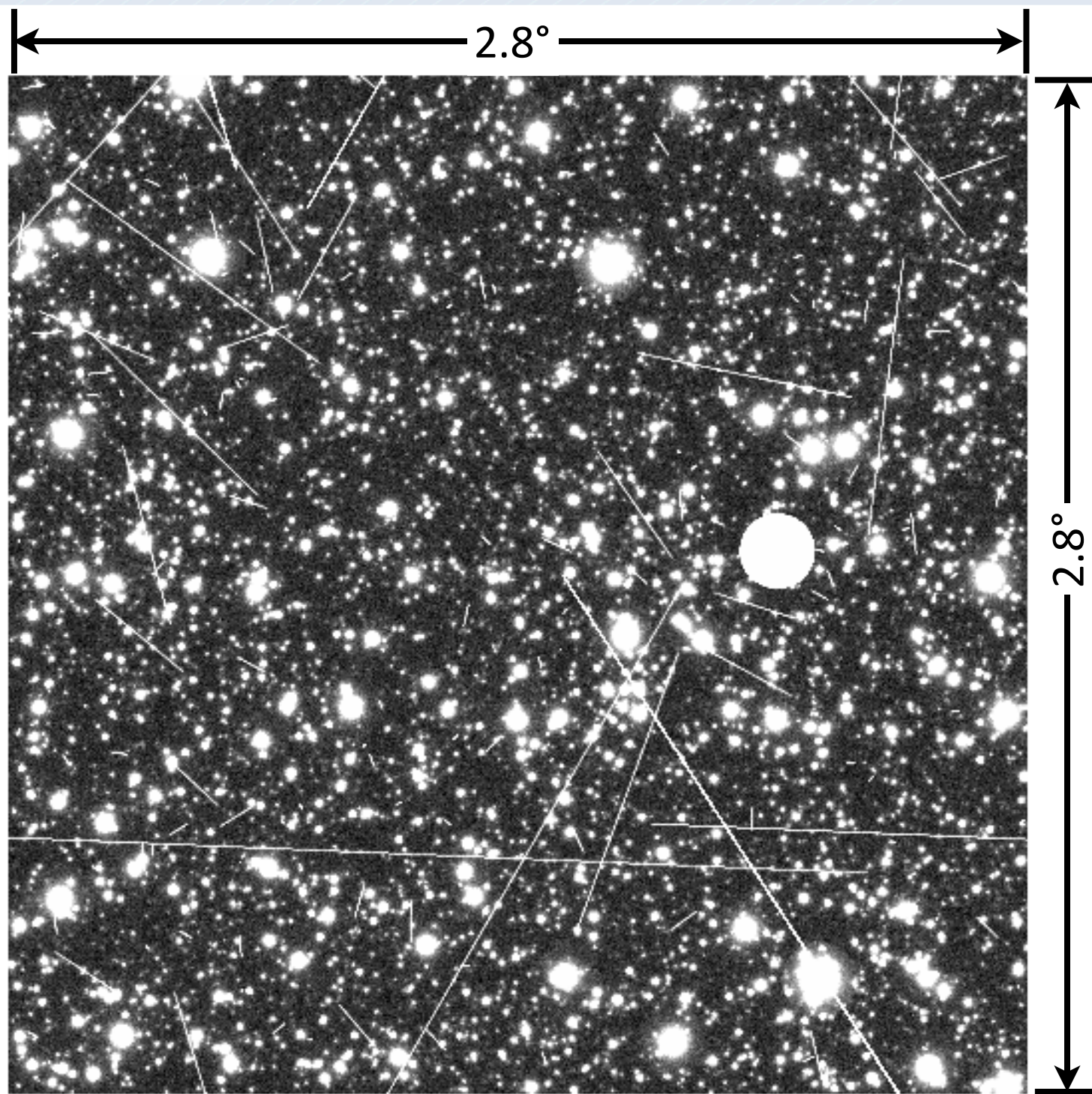


**TESS Will Discover ~300 Earths & Super-Earths**









Stack:

900 TESS images @ 2s/integration

Portion of Image Stack Shown:

= 7.8 deg<sup>2</sup> out of 570 deg<sup>2</sup>/camera

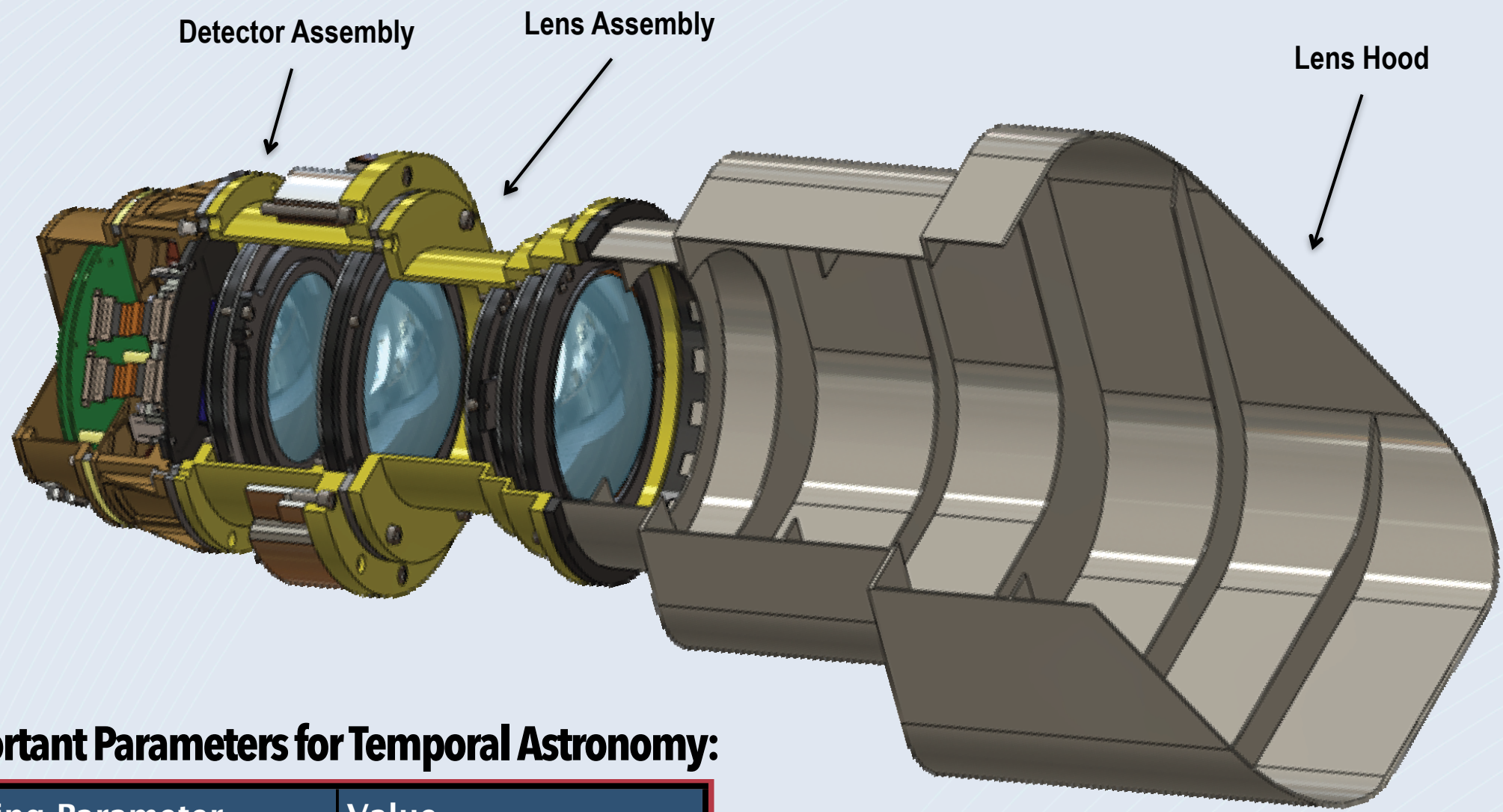
= 0.34% of instantaneous TESS FOV

Limiting Mag in I Band	S/N Ratio Achieved by TESS in 30 minutes	# Stars* in 40,000 deg <sup>2</sup>
12.0	1350	$\approx 6 \times 10^6$
13.0	600	$\approx 12 \times 10^6$
14.0	250	$\approx 24 \times 10^6$

\*R band mean star counts from Bahcall & Soneira (1980) re-scaled to I band assuming  $R-I = +1.0$  mag, appropriate for early M stars.

**TESS Can Provide FFI's at Kepler's 30 Minute Cadence**



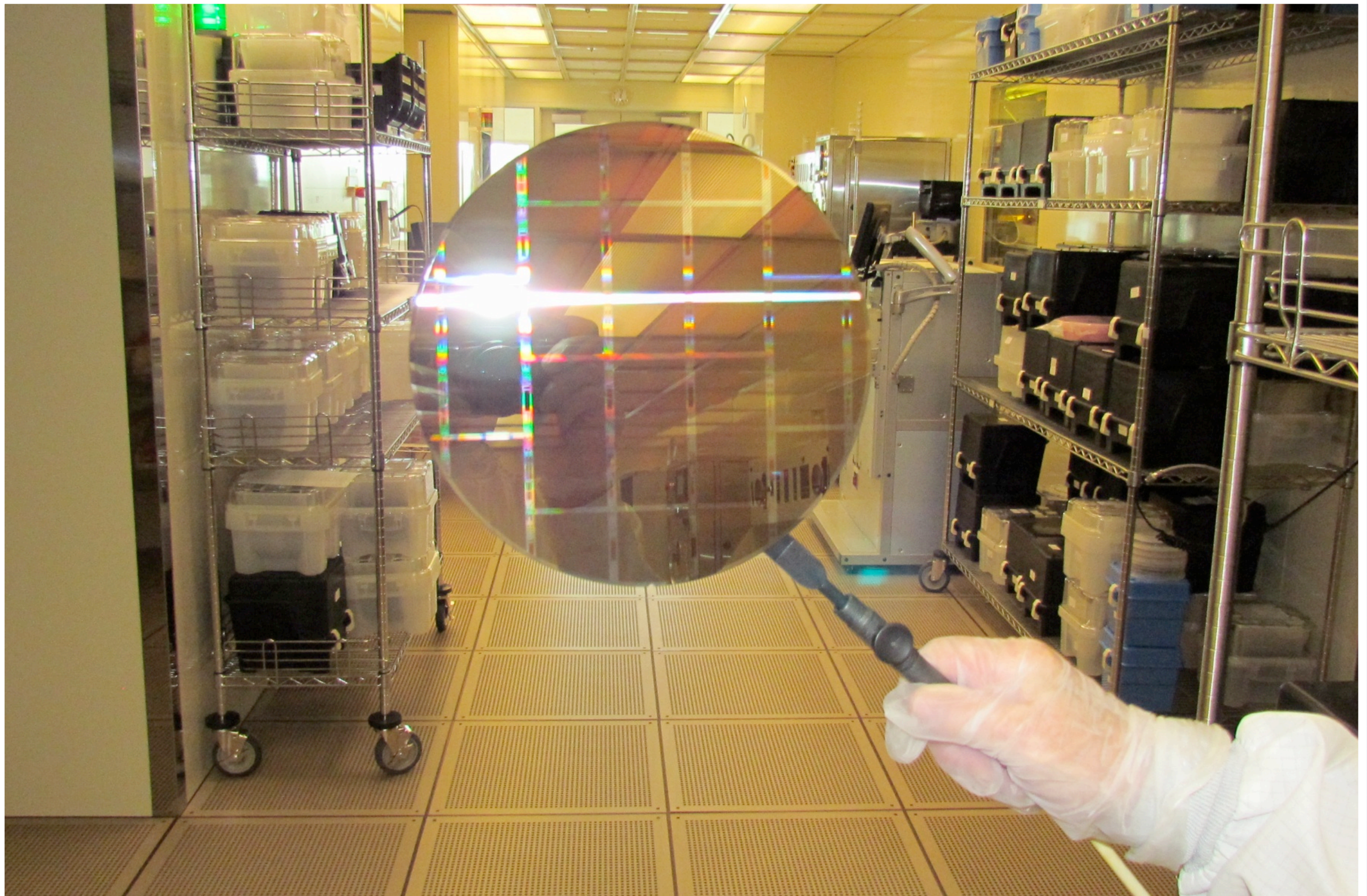


## Important Parameters for Temporal Astronomy:

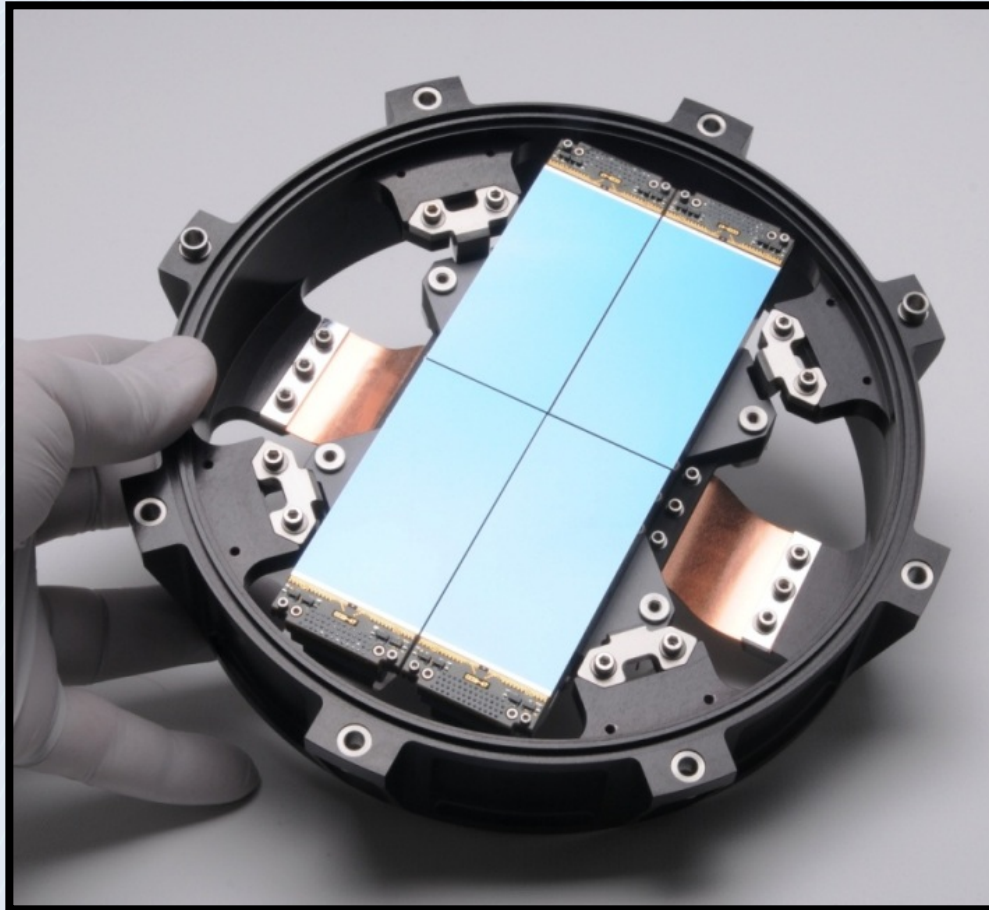
Timing Parameter	Value
Frame Time	2 sec
Transfer Time	0.004 sec
Baseline Cadence (> 500,000 Stars)	1 min
Bright Star Cadence (~ 3,000 Stars)	30 sec (goal)
Full Frames Cadence (> 20,000,000 Stars)	30 min

Optical Parameter	Value
Effective Area	60 cm <sup>2</sup>
Passband	600—1000 nm
CCD Focal Plane Array (Frame Store Mode)	4 @ 2K x 2K pixels 15 μm/pixel
Camera FOV	24° x 24°
Number of Cameras	4 ⇒ 2304 deg <sup>2</sup> FOV

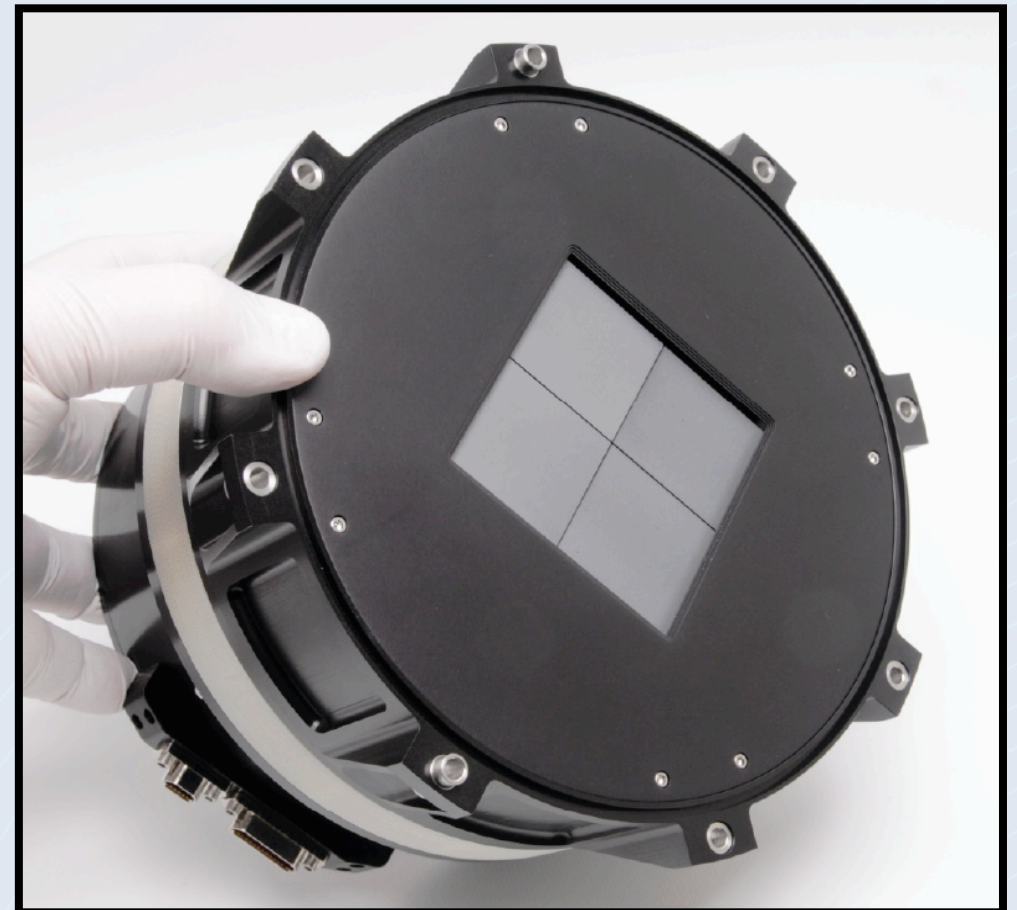








A) Array of 4 CCDs During Assembly

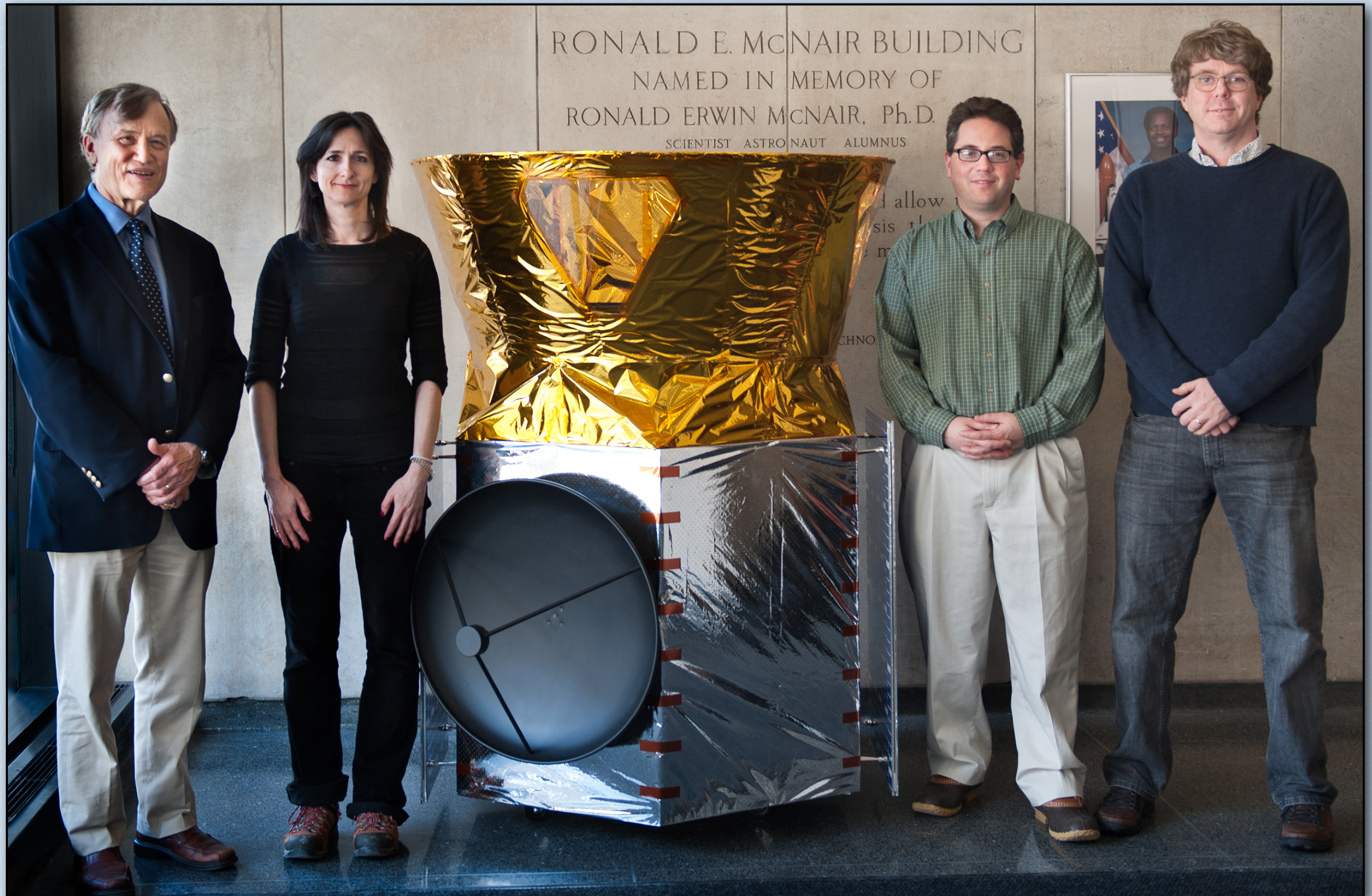


B) Completed CCD Focal Plane Array  
(Frame Store Cover in Place)











## ◆ Simple Mission Design

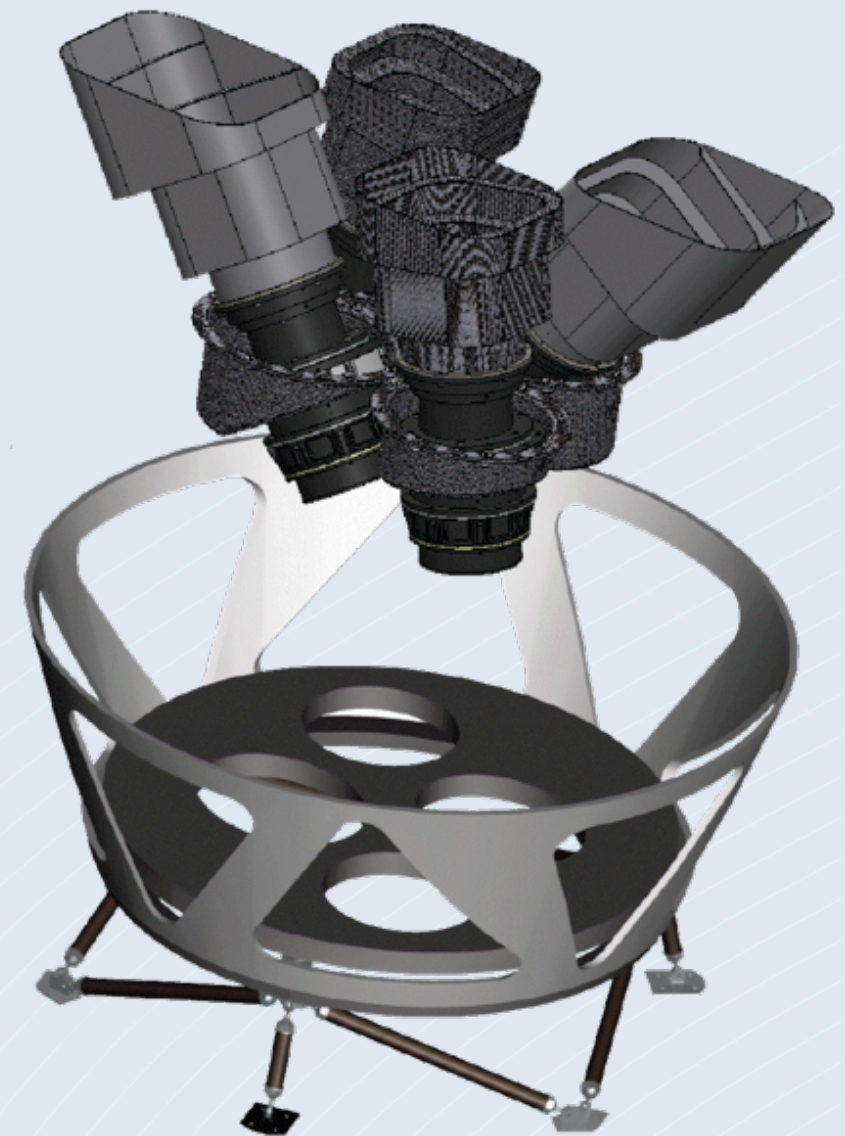
- *HEO assures stable instrument operation*
  - *Anti-sun, fixed inertial pointing*
  - *Infrequent maneuvers*
- *All cooling is passive*
- *Solar panels are the only deployable*

## ◆ Four Identical Cameras

- *Modest aperture*

## ◆ Simple Payload Interface to Orbital's Heritage Bus

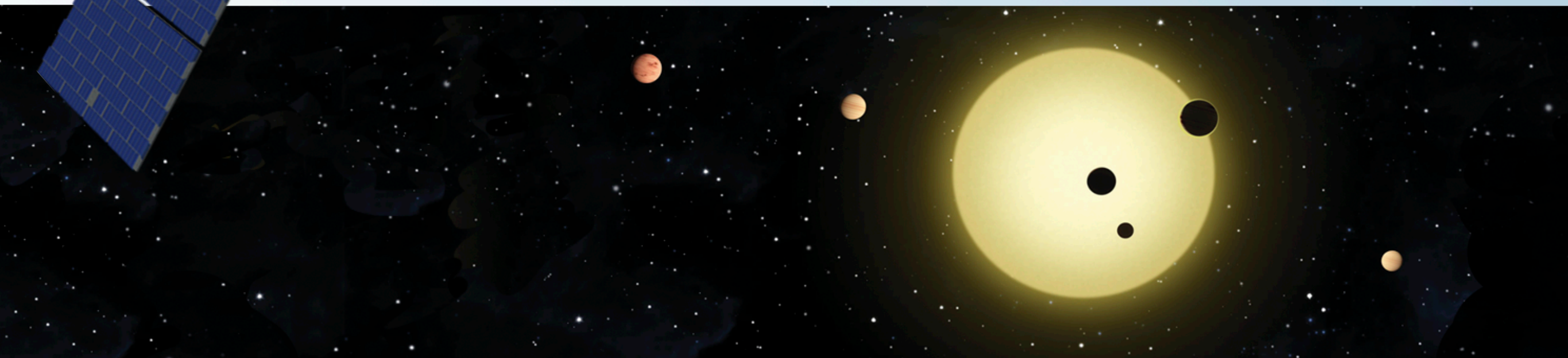
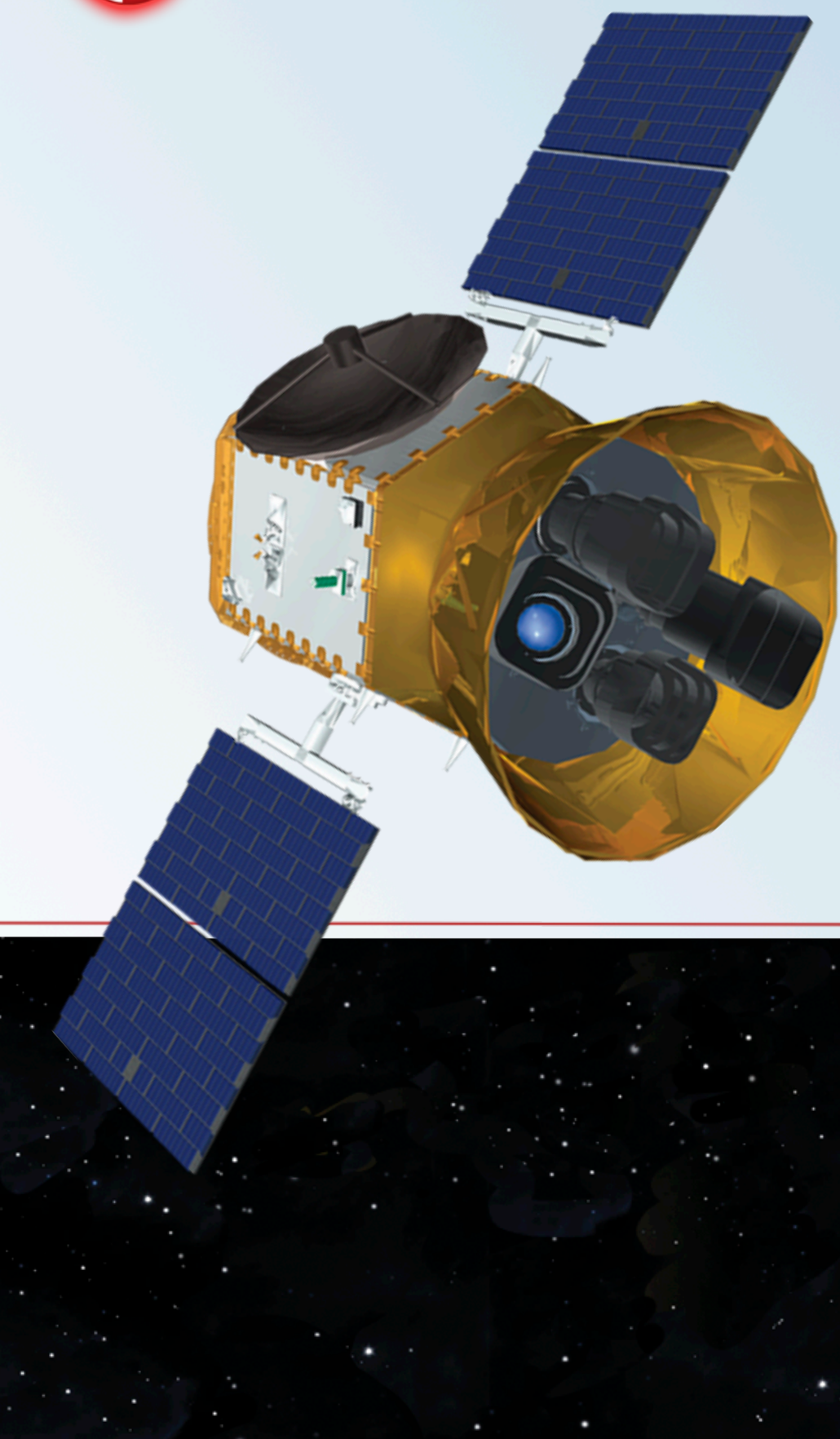
- *Cameras bolt in place with no critical alignments*



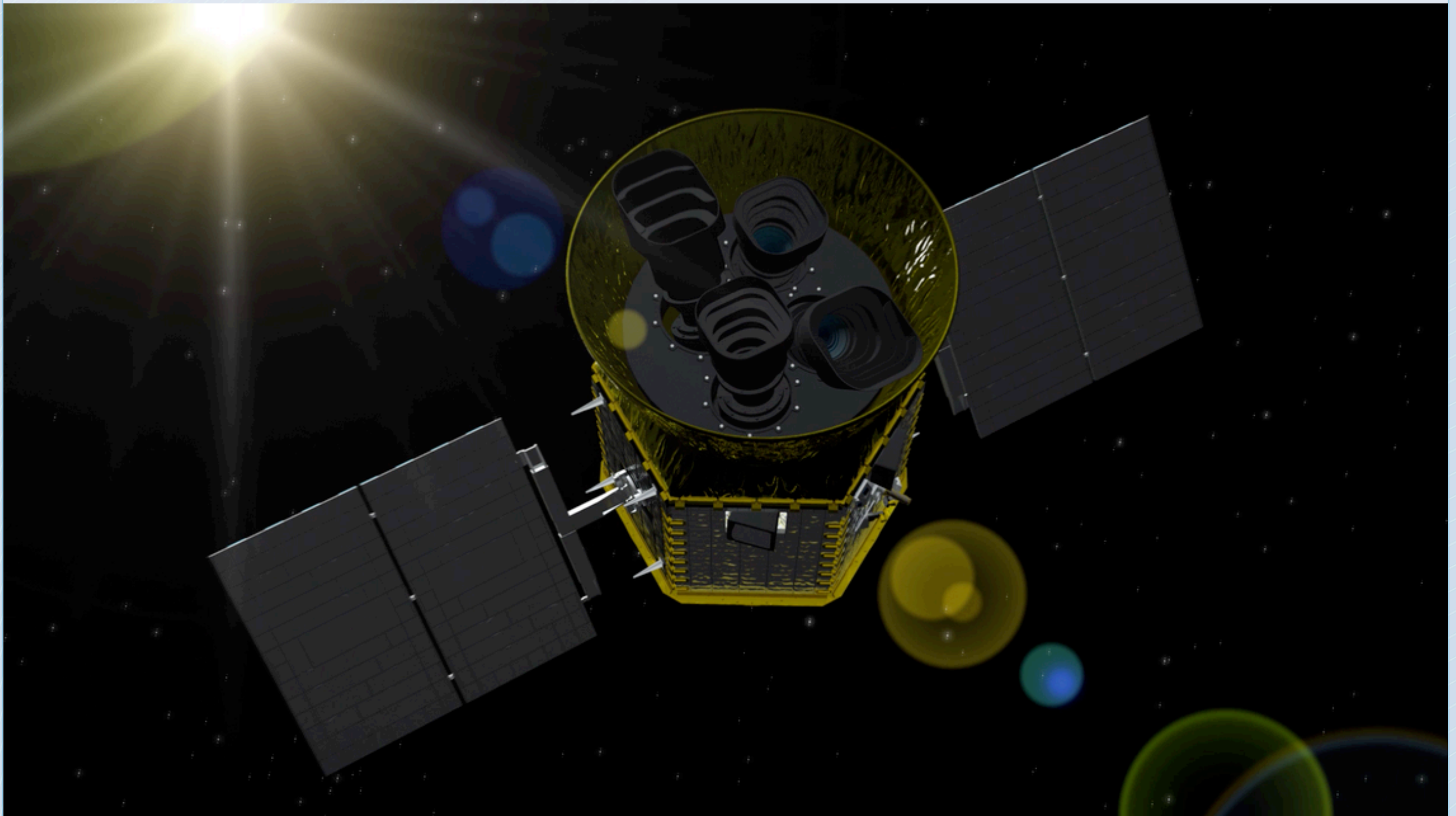


# TESS Mission Videos

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpViVEO-ymc>

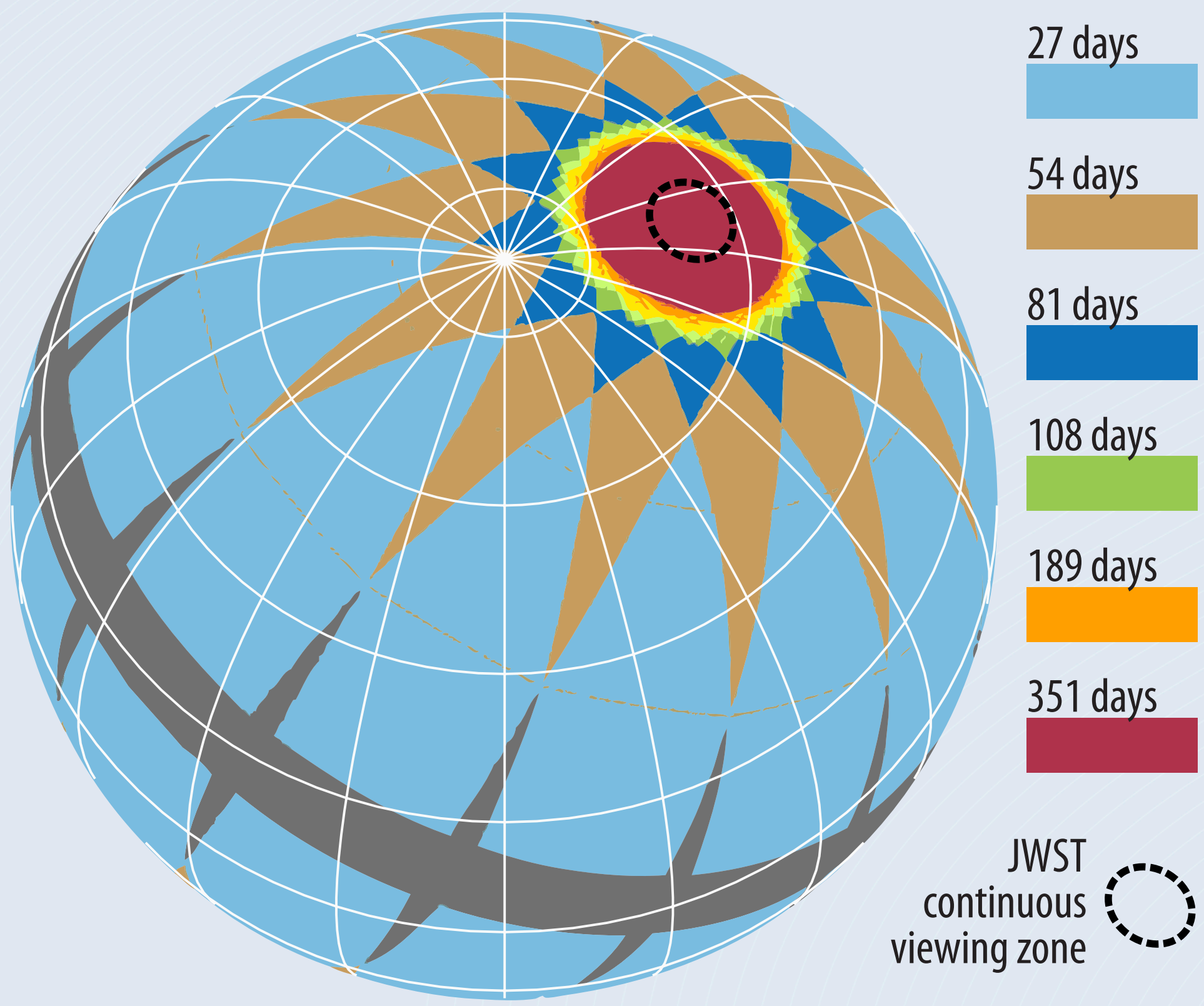




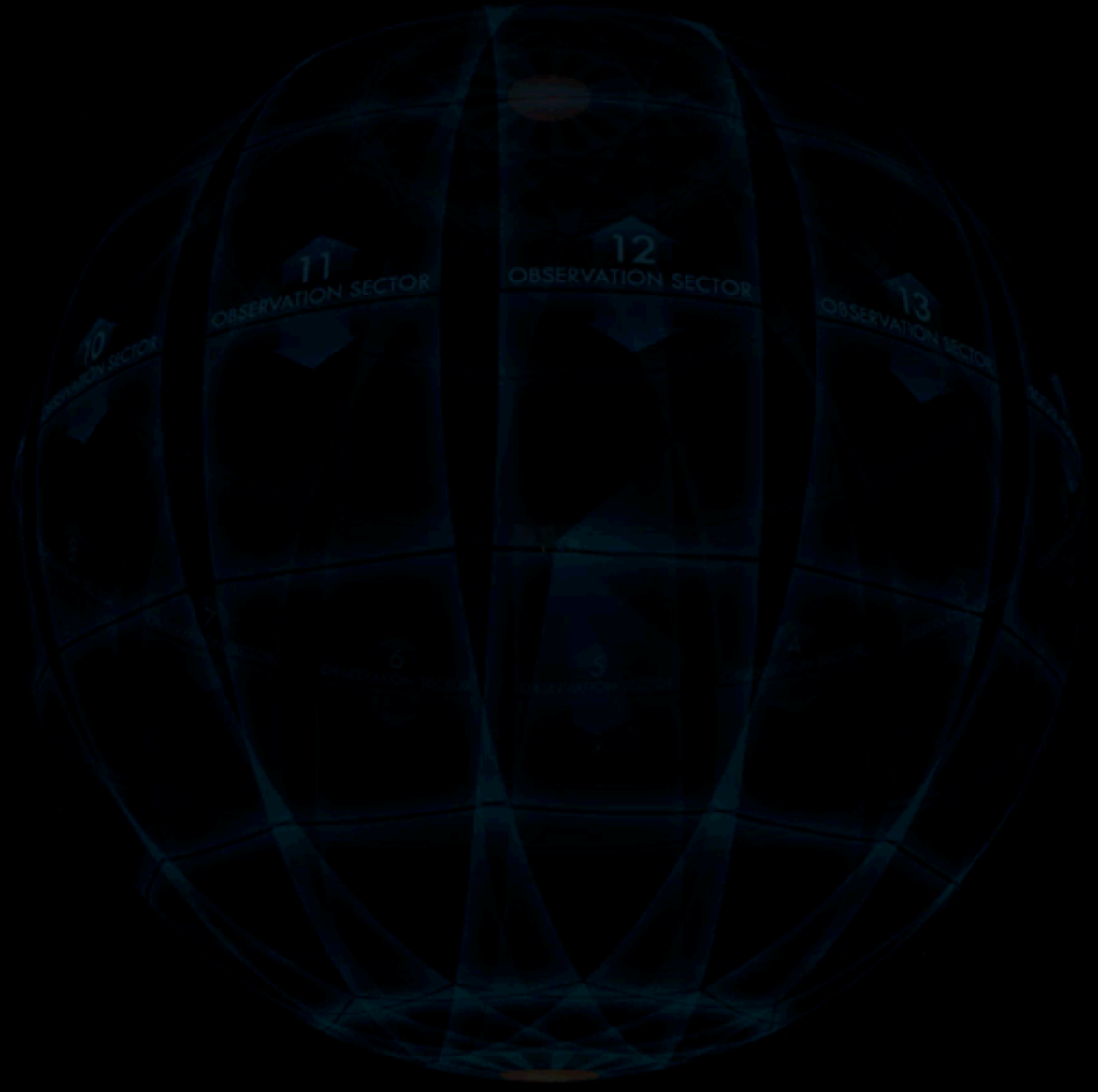




# TESS 2-year Sky Coverage Map



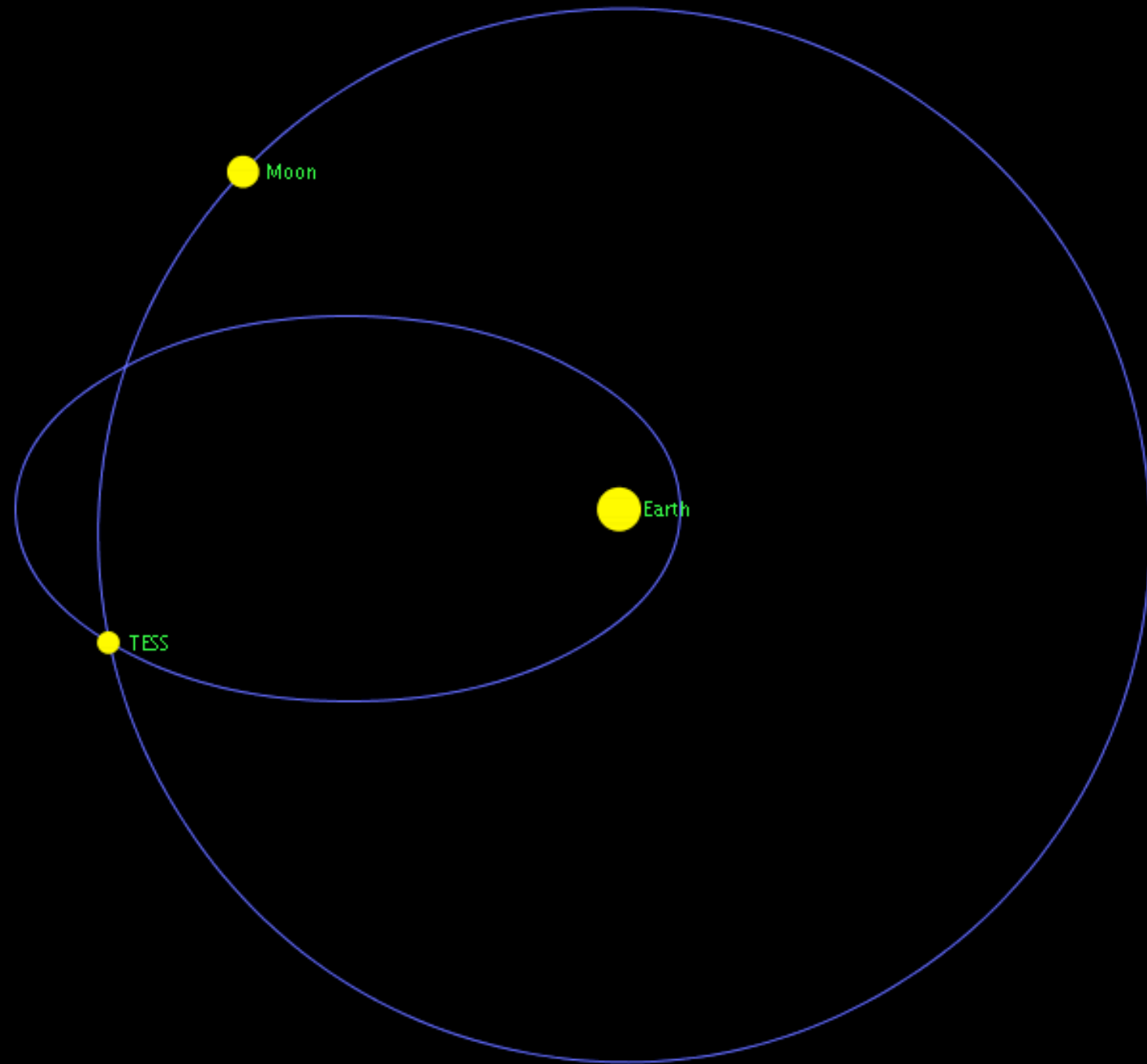




JWST CONTINUOUS VIEWING ZONE

Uninterrupted  
viewing for >95%  
of time

Orbital Periods:  
TESS = 13.7 days  
Moon = 27.4 days  
➡ 2:1 Resonance  
➡ 90° Phasing



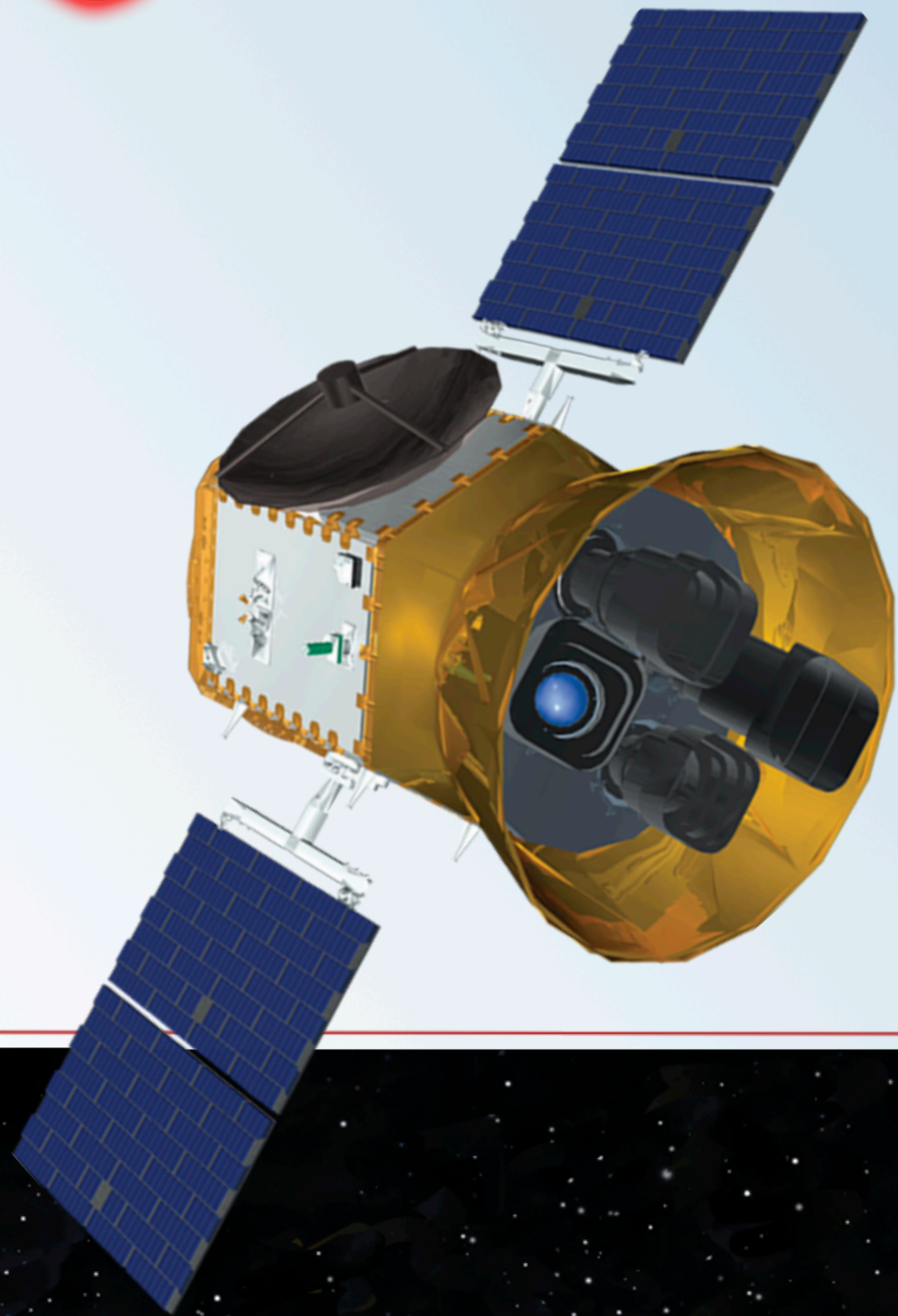
TESS Orbit is *Stable* for ~100 years



- 1) High Observing Efficiency:  $>95\%$
- 2) Thermal stability:  $<50 \text{ mK/hr}$  (*passive control only*)
- 3) Earth/Moon Stray Light Tolerance:  $10^{-6}$  (*vs  $10^{-12}$  in LEO*)
- 4) Low Radiation Levels: *No SAA, No Outer Belt Electrons*
- 5) Frequent Launch Windows: *23 of 27 days per lunar month*
- 6) **High Data Rates:** *100 Mbit/s (200 GB in 3hr at Perigee)*  
*[ $1/R^2$  advantage:  $\sim 200\times$  Earth-Sun L2;  $\sim 10,000\times$  Kepler-type Orbit]*
- 7) Excellent Pointing Stability: *No Drag, No Gravity Gradient*
- 8) Simple operations: *Single 4 hr Downlink & Repoint every 2 wks*
- 9) Long Orbit Lifetime:  *$\sim$ Several Decades (Perigee  $> 6.6 R_E$ )*

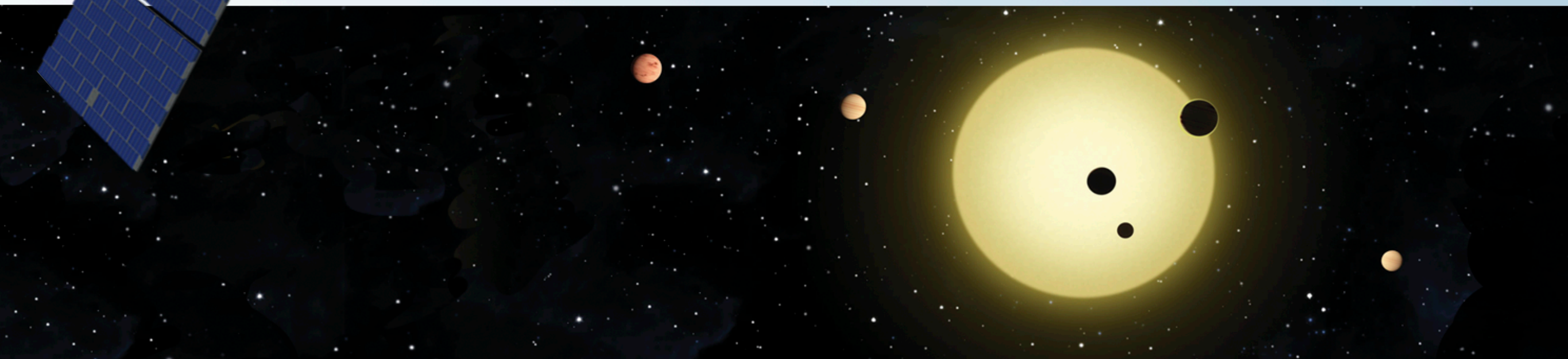
Gangestad et al. 2013 (astro-ph 1306.5333)





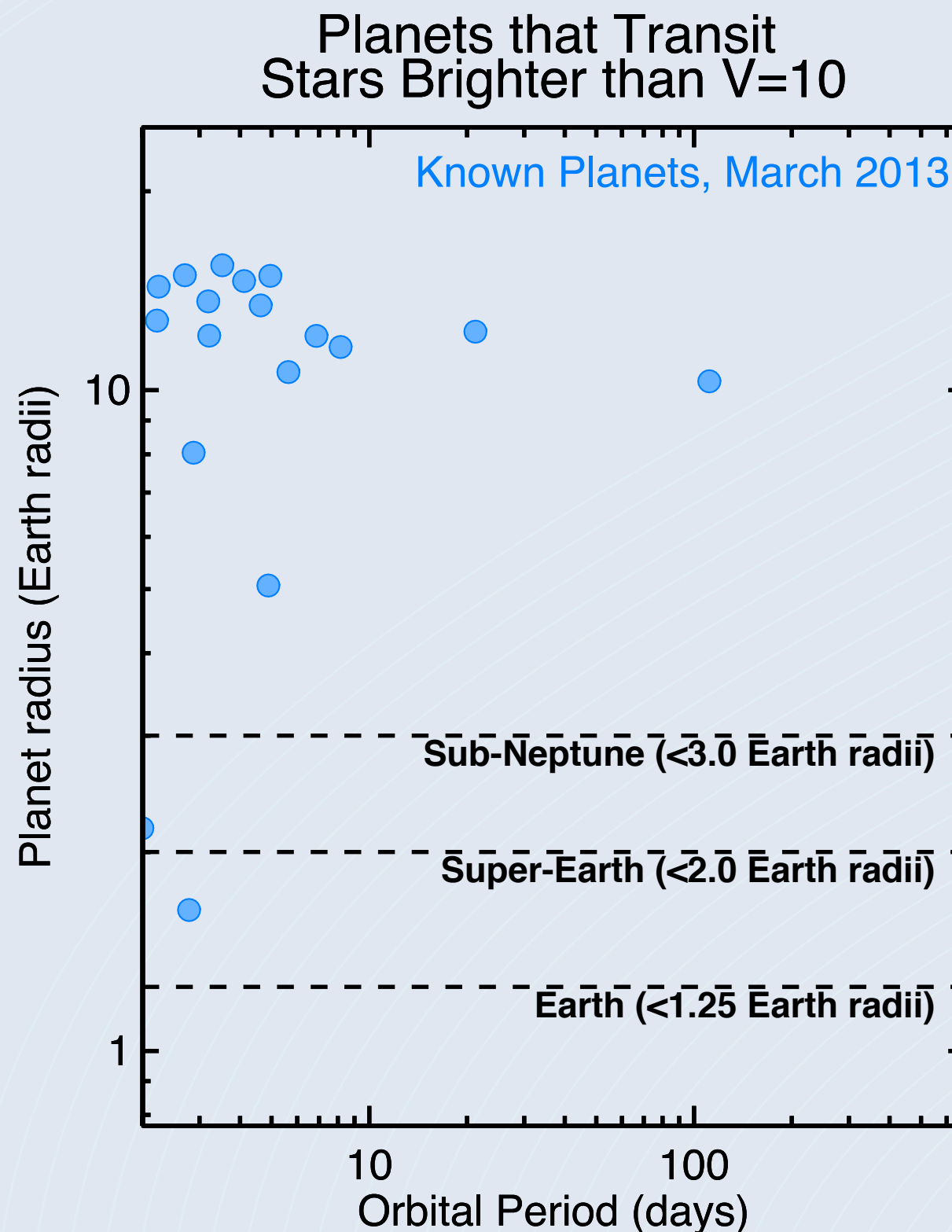
# Why TESS?

# Why Now?





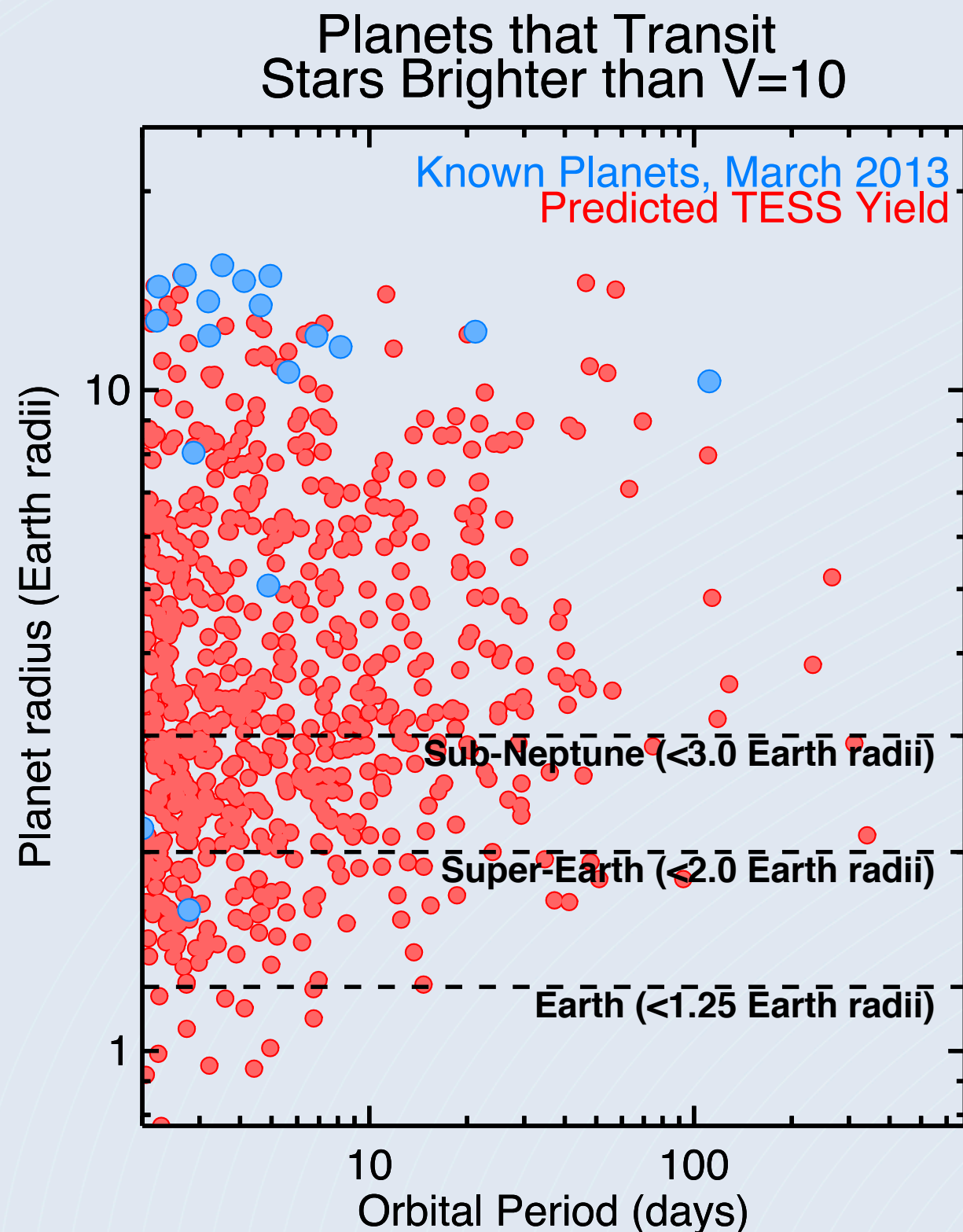
- ◆ **Kepler:** The most common members of the exoplanet family are Earths and Super-Earths
- ◆ Population of characterizable Earths and Super-Earths is extremely impoverished
- ◆ Two smallest transiting exoplanets with bright hosts were discovered from space:
  - *Kepler-21b: Kepler Team*
  - *55 Cnc e: MOST [Co-I Josh Winn]*





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  - *Kepler-21b: Kepler Team*
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**TESS Will Discover the Earths and Super-Earths Transiting the Brightest & Nearest Stars**



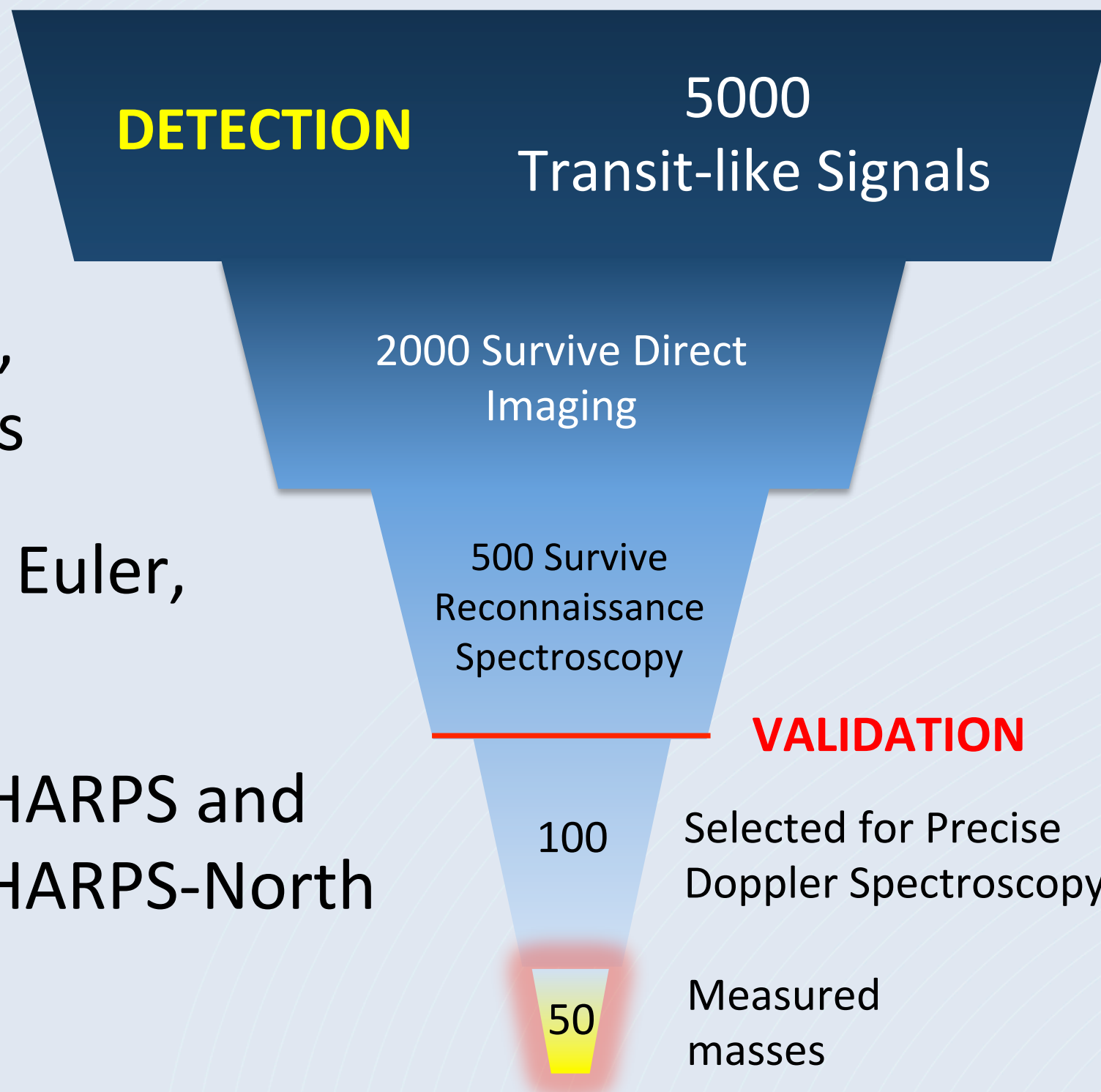


◆ TESS spacecraft data

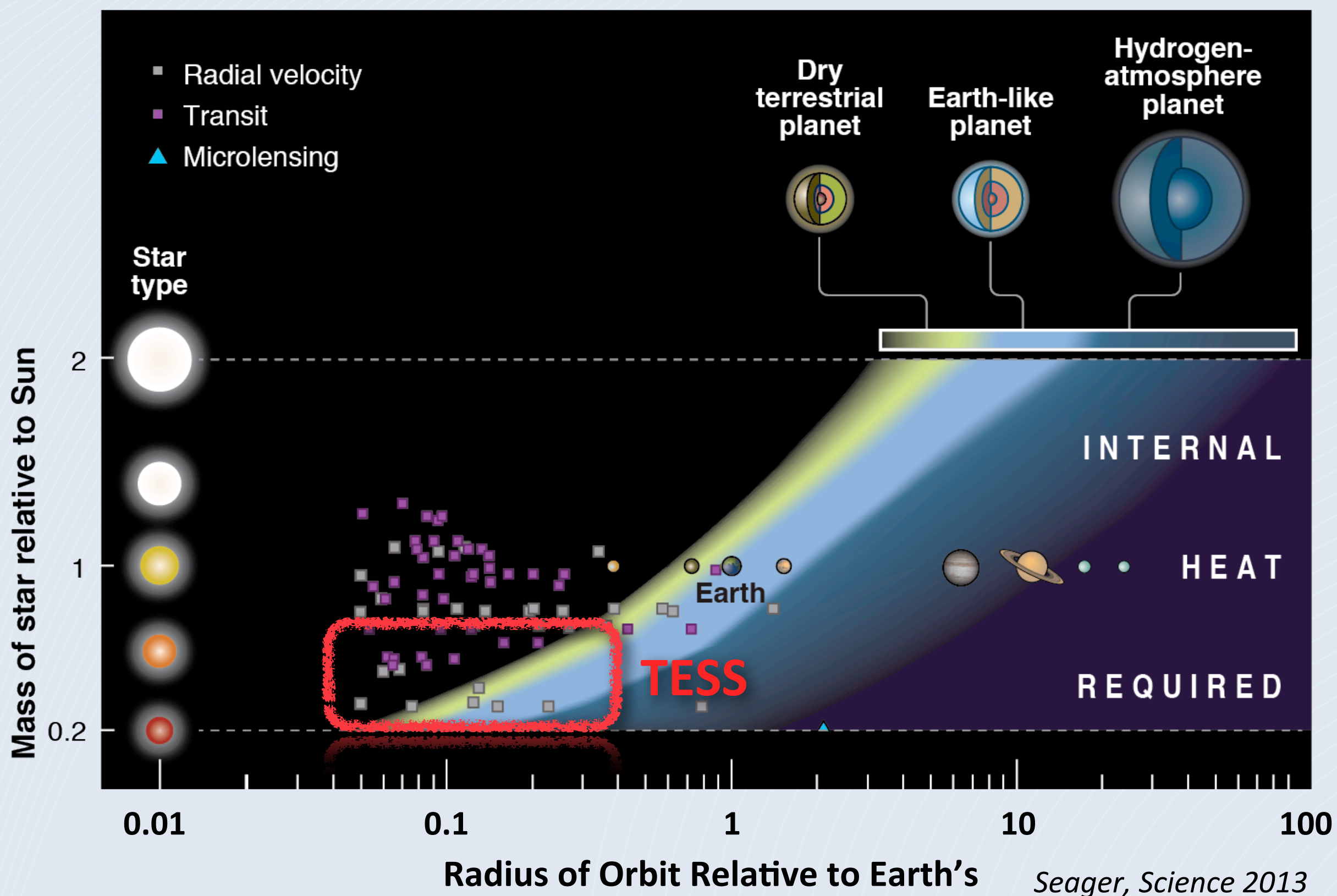
◆ LCOGT, MEarth, Euler telescopes

◆ LCOGT, Euler, OHP

◆ HARPS and HARPS-North









## Exoplanet Missions

